



John Bowen

On Leave, Spring 2018

Dunbar-Van Cleve Professor in Arts & Sciences

Sociocultural Anthropology

Degrees: Ph.D. University of Chicago, 1984

M.A. University of Chicago, 1977

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Research Interests

My research focuses on comparative social studies of Islam across the world. My own ethnographic studies take place in Indonesia, France, and England, but I work with students and colleagues with field sites across Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. In particular, I analyze how Muslims (judges and scholars, public figures, ordinary people) work across plural sources of norms and values, including diverse interpretations of the Islamic tradition, law codes and decisions, and local social norms.

Selected Publications

Europe

2016 *On British Islam: Religion, Law, and Everyday Practice in Shari'a Councils*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

2015 "France after Charlie Hebdo", Boston Review Forum, March, 2015.

2014 *European States and Their Muslim Citizens: The Impact of Institutions on Perceptions and Boundaries*, ed. John R Bowen, Christophe Bertossi, Jan Willem Duyvendak, and Mona Lena Krook. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

2011 "How the French State Justifies Controlling Muslim Bodies: From Harm-based to Values-based Reasoning." *Social Research*, Summer 2011, 78:2, 1-24. [\[pdf\]](#)

2011 "Europeans Against Multiculturalism", *Boston Review*, July/August 2011.

2011 "The Republic and the Veil", in Edward Berenson, Vincent Duclert, and Christophe Prochasson, eds., *The French Republic: A Transatlantic History*, pp. 272-77. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

2010 *Can Islam Be French? Pluralism and Pragmatism in a Secularist State*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

2007 *Why the French Don't Like Headscarves: Islam, the State, and Public Space*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Indonesia

2013 "Contours of Sharia in Indonesia", in Mirjam Künkler and Alfred Stepan, eds. *Democracy &*

Islam in Indonesia, pp. 149-67. New York: Columbia University Press.

2008 "Intellectual Pilgrimages and Local Norms in Fashioning Indonesian Islam", *Revue d'Etudes sur le Monde Musulman et la Méditerranée*, 123: 37-54. [\[pdf\]](#)

2005 "Normative Pluralism in Indonesia: Regions, Religions, and Ethnicities," in Will Kymlicka and Boagang He, eds., *Multiculturalism in Asia: Theoretical Perspectives*, pp. 152-69. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [\[pdf\]](#)

2005 "Fairness and Law in an Indonesian Court", in M. Khalid Masud, David S. Powers, and Ruud Peters, eds., *Dispensing Justice in Muslim Courts: Qadis, Procedures and Judgments*, pp. 117-41. Leiden: Brill. [\[pdf\]](#)

2004 "[The Development of Southeast Asian Studies in the United States](#)", in David L. Szanton, ed., *The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines*, pp. 386-425. Berkeley: University of California Press.

2003 *Islam, Law and Equality in Indonesia: An Anthropology of Public Reasoning*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (awarded the 2004 Herbert Jacobs Prize by the Law and Society Association for the "outstanding book" of 2003).

Religion and Comparative Studies

2017, "[Gender, Islam, and Law](#)," WIDER Working Paper 2017/152. United Nations University, July 2017.

2017, "Social Progress and Cultural Change," John Bowen and Will Kymlicka, Coordinating Lead Authors, International Panel on Social Progress, 2017, <https://comment.ipsp.org/chapter/chapter-15-social-progress-and-cultural-change>.

2016 "Anthropology of Islam", *Encyclopedia of Islam*, 3rd edition. Leiden: Brill.

2015 "[Anthropology and Islamic Law](#)", in Kristen Stilt and Anvar Emon, eds., *Oxford Handbook on Islamic Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2014 *L'islam: l'ennemi idéal*. Paris: Albin Michel

2013 *Religions in Practice: An Approach to the Anthropology of Religion*, 6th revised edition. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

2012 *A New Anthropology of Islam*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

2012 *Blaming Islam*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

2011 "Islamic Adaptations to Western Europe and North America: The Importance of Contrastive Analyses", *American Behavioral Scientist*, 55: 1601-1615. [\[pdf\]](#)

2010 "Secularism: Conceptual Genealogy or Political Dilemma?" *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 52 (3): 680-94. [\[pdf\]](#)

2006 "Anti-Americanism as Schemas and Diacritics across Indonesia and France," in Peter Katzenstein and Robert Keohane, eds., *Anti-Americanisms in World Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. [\[pdf\]](#)

Courses

[Norms, Networks and Repertoires: The Anthropology of Institutions](#) (L48 5312)

Politics and Religion in Contemporary Society (L48 3155) [in Paris]

Europe's New Diversities (L48 4366)

Social Theory and Anthropology (L48 472)

Faculty

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